only question that remains is that the occupied area of Jammu and Kashmir which should be handed over to India and that is the only question that is existing between the two Governments to be settled. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has made that position clear to Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have stated the Governments position very clearly.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, regarding Siachin, the Prime Minister's two discussions with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Bhutto, on Siachen did come in and the Prime Minister of India stated the position very categorically and very clearly. It is only a question of avoiding conflicts. Therefore, we will try to pursue that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 43. Question No. 44. Mrs. Chakravarty.

* 43. [(*The questioner (Shri D. B. Chandre Gowda) was absent. For answer* vide col. 33 *infra*]

Restricted area permit in North East Region

*44. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Restricted Area Permit is still in force in the North East region;

(b) if so, whether this has hindered the development of tourism in that region; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw Restricted Area Permit from North East region ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Certain areas of tourist interest have been opened up and foreigners can visit these areas after obtaining permits which are being issued liberally.

(c) Government of India reviews the situation from time to time.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: It is known to all that Assam is full of scenenic beauties and worth-seeing birds and animals in its national parks. It is unfortunate that while foreigners come and silently settle in Assam, foreign tourists are not allowed to visit Assam. Foreign tourists are not allowed to visit Assam because of the restrictions and this has really caused a serious setback to the economy of Assam. This has also hindred the overall development of tourism in Assam. Many important personalities invited by the different Universities of Assam have been refused permission because of the system of Restricted Area Prmit and this has happened last year, in the year 1988, and some important agricultural scientists have been refused permission. They were invited by the Agricultural University of Assam. At the same time, foreign tourists can visit the most sensitive areas like some parts of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh and also Darjeeling. Therefore, I want to know from the honourable Minister why Assam has been singled out in this respect and why this Restricted Area Permit system is being imposed in Assam.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Sir, as far as Indian tourists are concerned, there is no restriction. But the Government of India considers that in Assam and other parts of the north-East conditions are not quite normal Therefore, any foreign tourist who

desires to visit these places has to contact the Missions abroad and they should indicate the places they would like to visit. Therefore there is no absolute restriction and many areas in Assam lik Kaziranga, Manas National Park, Guwahati City, the Kamakhya Devi Temple and other areas are open to the foreign tourists. Only those foreign tourists who indicate their preference to these areas are permitted to go.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I understand from the hon. Minister's reply that the Government of India reviews the situation from time to time. I want to know from the hon. Minister, what was the finding of the last review? Will the hon. Minister kindly state the approximate time for withdrawal of the restriction for groups?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: The Home Ministry would like to simplify the procedure to issue permits for those foreign tourists who desire to visit Assam and other north-eastern areas.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, even during 50's, in peace time with regard to Kashmir there was no absolute restriction about foreigners visiting the place. But I think the Central Government would be ending with disastrous consequences of imposing such restriction. Will they grow wise? It is an uncalled for restriction, because foreigners know much more than all of us do about even north-eastern region. So you only suffer in money and tourism. Will you kindly become wise? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question wants them to become wise. They will become wise. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: It is your Government that has done all the mischief in Assam. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*45. [*The questioner* (*Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare*) *absent. For answer* vide *col.* 34 infra]

Selection of sponsored serials

*46. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of producers/directors have been included in the panel of Doordarshan for sponsored TV serials;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the policy for the selection of sponsored TV serials; and

(d) by when the Doordarshan is likely to invite proposals from approved producers/directors?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh.